Title: Demand to revive and increase the production of railway coaches at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur, Chennai.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (DINDIGUL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue concerning Tamil Nadu. The Integral Coach Factory set up at Perambur in Tamil Nadu is one among the 'Temples of Modern India' to ensure industrial growth and provide job opportunities.

The ICF attained a capacity to produce 1,500 coaches per year. The Kapurthala unit of the ICF was set up in 1992. It is being patronised by the Railways. But the ICF, Chennai gets a step-motherly treatment. As a result of this, many of the production activities have been reduced. A number of posts have now been surrendered. Technical excellence and skilled labour force are being wasted.

The way in which ICF, Chennai has been made sick, this Government may sell off this unit to the private sector.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to revive the ICF, Chennai. The metre-gauge lines in South India have been converted into broad-gauge. Considering the future demands of broad-gauge coaches, the ICF, Chennai − with better skilled technical labour force − must be given a boost.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.